

2015 White House Conference on Aging Fact Sheet

Prepared by the California Commission on Aging



On Tuesday, July 29th the White House announced the 2015 White House Conference on Aging and the appointment of Nora Super as WHCoA Executive Director.

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What is the White House Conference on Aging?

White House Conferences on Aging are decennial events held to engage with and hear from stakeholders and individuals interested in issues that are important to older individuals and people in the aging field. The 2015 White House Conference on Aging is an opportunity to look ahead to the issues that will help shape the landscape for older Americans for the next decade.

When/where will the next White House Conference on Aging be held?

The White House Conference on Aging will take place in 2015 – the 50th anniversary of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act, as well as the 80th anniversary of Social Security.

The date and location for the 2015 Conference has not yet been set. The previous WHCoA was held December 2005 in Washington DC.

Attendance at past WHCoAs was limited to appointed delegates. How will delegates be selected for the 2015 Conference, and how many will be selected?

Delegate selection details have not been announced.

What will be the format for the 2015 WHCoA?

The planning for the WHCoA is just beginning. There are no details yet about the format or structure of the 2015 WHCoA. We envision technology will play a big role in this Conference.

What are the issues to be considered at the 2015 Conference on Aging?

- **Retirement security is a vitally important issue.** Financial security in retirement provides essential peace of mind for older Americans, but requires attention during our working lives to ensure that we are well prepared for retirement.

- **Long-term services and supports remain a priority.** Older Americans overwhelmingly prefer to remain independent in the community as they age. They need supports to do so, including a caregiving network and well-supported workforce.
- **Healthy aging will be all the more important as baby boomers age.** As medical advances progress, the opportunities for older Americans to maintain their health and vitality should progress as well.
- **Seniors, particularly the oldest older Americans, can be vulnerable to financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect.** The Elder Justice Act was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act, and we need to realize its vision of protecting seniors from scam artists and others seeking to take advantage of them.

What is the federal appropriation for the 2015 White House Conference on Aging?

\$3 million is included in the President's Budget for the WHCoA. Federal funding for the 2005 conference was \$7.3 million. No federal funds are available for state WHCoA functions and activities.

Who is the 2015 WHCoA Executive Director?

The White House announced that Nora Super will be leading the effort as the newly named Executive Director of the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. She brings both substantive expertise on the issues and the experience to help maximize outreach and engagement with older Americans across the country.

What is the website for the WHCoA?

The White House will launch WhiteHouseConferenceOnAging.gov as the official site for the conference this summer.

Statement from the White House

"We intend to use the year ahead to be as creative as possible about using new technology, agencies' regional offices, partners, and other strategies to engage directly with older Americans and stakeholders on these issues. We are looking forward not only to the Conference, but to a year of engagement and dialogue about older Americans' issues and the opportunity to celebrate all that older Americans continue to contribute to our country". - *Cecilia Muñoz is an Assistant to the President and Director of the Domestic Policy Council.*